

Memorandum

To: City Council
CC: City Manager Ken Coleman
From: City Clerk Gail Davidson
Date: 10/25/2013
Re: Youth Tobacco Ordinance

City Council:

In the summer of 2011, the then Youth City Council approached Council and asked that an ordinance be passed addressing the problem of underage tobacco use in the community. Ordinance No. 4, Series 2011, was the result of that request. That ordinance contains a clause that sunsets the ordinance the end of 2013.

This year's Youth City Council met with Community Resource Officer Rob Whiting and GCSAPP Director Matthew Kuehlhorn and discussed the issues of youth tobacco use in Gunnison and the effects of the original ordinance. While no citations have been issued, the original ordinance assisted with making smoking by teenagers must less visible to the younger children in the community. This has helped take the "coolness factor" of smoking off the streets and out of view of the younger children. Officer Whiting informed the students that the Ordinance is an additional "tool" in his discussions with youth smoking cigarettes or using other tobacco products. The ordinance provides an educational component for any youth receiving a citation.

The Youth City Council is asking City Council to pass the ordinance. They feel that any help for students not to smoke is worthwhile. If the older youth smokers are not visible to the younger children, that is a benefit in maybe not having the younger kids start smoking in the first place. The YCC students included "nicotine-containing products such as e-cigarettes" that can be easily obtained and ordered in bulk over the internet. These are relatively new products and, although they do not contain the tars found in cigarettes, they contain the addictive nicotine.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance.

Gail Davidson, YCC Advisor